

Three Newcomers Take Places on Council

By NATALIE HALL
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Three new City Councilmen were sworn in last night at official induction ceremonies at the Council's regular Tuesday meeting. Participating in Council proceedings for the first time were Dr. Donald E. Wilson, William J. Uerkwitz, and Orin (Bud) Johnson.

The three newcomers swept out incumbents at the municipal elections April 9. Present to certify election results were outgoing Councilmen Ed Talbert and George Vico. David K. Lyman did not attend.

TRADITION, it seems, has had an important role in the operation of City Council business over the years. But Councilmen are now beginning to wonder if tradition is tangible enough to keep things running smoothly.

At last night's regular meeting—the first since the municipal election—the question of City Council subcommittees cropped up again. Since there are three new faces on the Council, the local lawmakers felt they had to come to some decision about subcommittee assignments for the newcomers. However, the question turned into a lengthy discussion of the legality of the subcommittees themselves.

It turns out that there is no provision in the City Charter for appointment of subcommittees, raising questions about the validity of the behind-the-scenes study groups.

AS COUNCILMAN Jay Beasley pointed out, tradition dictates that the mayor appoint councilmen to the police, fire, finance and

other subcommittees immediately after each election.

Mayor Albert Isen blasted the subcommittee selection system as a "matter of antiquity," taking it upon himself to dissolve all the groups.

"You apparently have the authority to dissolve these subcommittees," exclaimed Councilman Ken Miller. "I haven't even got the authority to appoint them!" Mayor Isen retorted.

COUNCILMAN Johnson suggested that the present system be retained until a satisfactory solution could be hammered out.

Mayor Isen then rescinded his earlier decree that the subcommittees be dissolved.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer was asked to look into the legal aspects of the subcommittee system to see if any conflict exists between the system and the

California Brown Act, which bans secret, closed meetings among local lawmakers.

AN ELECTED representative of Torrance bus drivers, Marvin Anderson, complained to Councilmen last night that the Municipal Bus System is badly in need of an updated bus route schedule.

Anderson said the current schedule is years behind the time. Estimated time lengths between bus stops are inaccurate, he added, causing inconvenience to bus riders.

The matter was referred to the City Manager Ed Ferraro and Bus Superintendent M. A. Chamberlain for study. Ferraro said he would issue updated schedules when bus route revision is completed.

The next City Council meeting will be held next Tuesday at 7 p.m., one hour earlier than usual.



CLEAN SWEEP . . . City Clerk Vernon W. Coil (left) administers the oath of office to new City Councilmen at last night's council meeting. Accepting the duties of their new offices are (from left) William J. Uerkwitz, Orin (Bud) Johnson, and Dr. Donald E. Wilson. The three newcomers swept out incumbents at the municipal elections April 9. (Press-Herald Photo)

Torrance

Press-Herald

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LIBRARY CARD . . . Charles Knight, one of 30 volunteers who are working this week in the Isabel Henderson Library, helps Ken Smith (at left) and Mark Leavitt fill out their applications for Torrance Municipal Library cards. The boys were among the first patrons to obtain the new city cards following the opening of the Henderson Library, 4805 Emerald St., under the direction of the city's own library staff. All three are charter members of the Friends of the Torrance Library. (Press-Herald Photo)



CHECK LIBRARY . . . Four Torrance youngsters were among the first to tour the Isabel Henderson Library Monday when it reopened as a city library. Pat Andersen, librarian, assists the four youngsters in selecting books. Pictured are David Coe, Stephanie Lee, Robin Young, and Greg Lee. The public has been invited to attend an open house at the library Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. The open house is being sponsored by the Victor Woman's Club. (Press-Herald Photo)

School Trustees Given \$24.6 Million Budget

FOR FIRST QUARTER

Accident Rate Drops Slightly

In spite of increased traffic, the number of accidents reported in Torrance during the first quarter of 1968 is smaller than the number tallied during the first three months last year.

Police indicate that there were only 309 accidents reported between Jan. 1 and March 31, resulting in injuries to 208 persons, and causing one death. During the

same period last year, however, there were 332 accidents, injuring 234 and killing two pedestrians.

This quarter, 41 of the mishaps involved a vehicle running into a parked vehicle. The number was 73 for the first quarter of 1967.

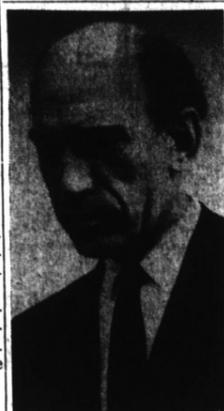
ONLY SIX cars ran off the road during the first three months of 1968, whereas 33 rolled off onto lawns or sidewalks during the first quarter of 1967.

Sgt. Bruce Bishop of the Torrance police traffic detail sees no great significance in the drop-off, stating that the accident decrease is possibly a "matter of fate." Special four-man patrols of heavily trafficked Torrance streets, however, may be linked to the reduction, Sergeant Bishop said.

Those examining the statistics must also remember that not all traffic accidents are reported to the police, Sergeant Bishop added.

Traffic figures reveal that 161 men drivers were involved in accidents during March, while only 47 women drivers were involved.

SERGEANT BISHOP said this doesn't mean women are necessarily better drivers, however. "For one thing, there's a higher percentage of (See ACCIDENTS, Page A-4)



KEN NORWOOD To Conduct Study

Study of Downtown Area Set

City Planner Ken Norwood, AIP, has been commissioned to conduct preliminary studies of downtown Torrance in an effort by businessmen and property owners to restore the area as an attractive, convenient shopping and service area.

Norwood's commission has been authorized by the recently formed Downtown Torrance Association, a group made up of property owners, businessmen, and others interested in a progressive approach to solving problems now facing the area.

"We have obtained Norwood's services because of his in-depth familiarity with the specific problems downtown retailers face in virtually every growing city in the United States today," the Press-Herald was told by Lucius (Bud) Babcock III, manager of the United California Bank and president of the association.

"Mr. Norwood was an active participant in the thoughtful planning that resulted in a new look for downtown Burbank, which has seen a dramatic increase in trade since a cooperating group of merchants and businessmen adopted an over-all plan of operation," Babcock said.

The Norwood plan for Burbank has "demonstrably served to make each individual (See STUDY, Page A-2)

11-Cent Hike In School Tax Rate Included

A preliminary budget calling for some \$24.6 million in expenditures during the 1968-69 year was given to the Torrance Board of Education Monday evening.

The board accepted the preliminary budget without comment and will schedule discussions and hearings during the next several weeks.

Dr. Frank Mattox, assistant superintendent of schools for business, prepared the 12-page document. He estimated total enrollment in the Torrance schools will be 36,625 students next year.

The budget provides for an estimated tax rate of \$4.37 per \$100 assessed valuation — up from the current \$4.2578. The increase includes slightly more than 9 cents on the district's general fund rate — which must be set by the Board of Education.

Income for the fiscal year was estimated at \$25,248,000. That, added to a surplus of some \$4.4 million, would give

the district a total balance of \$29,695,184.

The preliminary budget does not include any amount for salary adjustments, it was reported.

Dr. Mattox said the 1968-69 budget calls for an increase of \$1,862,862 in expenditures over estimated expenditures for the current year. That amounts to about 8 per cent.

Drainage Facilities Completed

Kral-Masonovich of Baldwin Park has completed a \$648,976 contract for installation of additional storm drain facilities in Torrance. Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said today.

The work was supervised by County Flood Control District Chief Engineer Walter J. Wood under terms of a pact awarded last July 11.

New Hospital Bids Ready - - -

Bids for construction of a new Torrance Memorial Hospital on Lomita Boulevard near Hawthorne Boulevard will be issued Thursday and will be received and opened on May 20, it was reported here this morning by Leonard Ensminger, executive secretary of the hospital. Authority to call for the bids was received from the U. S. Public Health Service this week. Construction of the 250-bed hospital is expected to begin early in June and will require about two years to complete. The facility designed by the architectural firm of Verge and Clatworthy of Glendale is expected to cost about \$6,850,000.

Mother to Face Charges - - -

The mother of condemned murderer Jerry Lee O'Brien has been charged in Superior Court with aiding her son's escape from a Tulare County prison farm. Mrs. Bettye Lee O'Brien, 63, of North Hollywood, was arraigned on the charges Monday before Judge Bernard Lawler. She was granted a delay to enter a plea to the charge and a second charge of harboring her fugitive son. Judge Lawler set May 1 for her next court appearance.

Open House Planned at Skills Center

The Southern California Regional Occupational Center at 2300 Crenshaw Blvd. will open its doors to the public for the first time Thursday, April 25, when faculty and students host a reception for the community.

The open house will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. in the center's newly opened temporary facility.

Dr. Wayne L. Butterbaugh, center superintendent, said that faculty members in each of the school's seven depart-

ments will give short presentations about the work of their divisions.

DESCRIBED as a "new approach to total education," the center teaches vocational skills such as dental and medical assisting, welding, data processing, and major appliance repair. The center's 290 students travel to the new campus from their home high schools each day for three-hour programs in their chosen field. Students then return

to their home high schools for regular academic training during the rest of the day.

Although enrollment is now limited to high school students, center officials hope to initiate a night school program for adults and "drop-outs" by July 15. Within three years, the center should be providing vocational training for some 8,000 students. Programs for the retarded and the handicapped lie in the distant future.

This fall, the center will

be equipped to train 375 students. Reception to the program has been so favorable, Dr. Butterbaugh said, that the center has already had to tell three times that many students there is no room for them in September classes.

Dr. Butterbaugh explained the center is a joint venture of six school districts, including Torrance, South Bay, Palos Verdes, Centinela Valley, El Segundo, and Inglewood. Students from 19 high (See CENTER, Page A-2)